

1. (Twice Amended) A head assembly for a cutting machine, comprising:

a head having mounting means for movement of said head assembly on an axis, said head defining a first channel oriented at an oblique angle to said axis;

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a slide mounted for slidable movement in said first channel between a withdrawn blade position and a plunged blade position, said slide having a second channel therein extending substantially parallel to said first channel, and said slide and head having first cooperating mechanical means thereon for adjustably limiting the movement of said slide to said plunged blade position; and

a blade-holding magazine dimensioned and configured for slidable insertion into said second channel, wherein said slide and magazine include a second cooperating mechanical means thereon for adjustably limiting the depth of magazine insertion into said second channel.

3. (Once Amended) The assembly of claim 1 further comprising means for selectively fixing the magazine within the second channel.

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4. (Once Amended) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the second cooperating mechanical means comprises at least one first locating member attached to the magazine, and at least one second locating member attached to the slide, wherein the magazine is insertable into the second channel to a position wherein the first locating member and the second locating member contact one another and limit further insertion of the magazine within the second channel.

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Please add new claims 5-18:

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5. (New) The assembly of claim 3, wherein the means for selectively fixing the magazine within the second channel includes a clamping screw.

6. (New) The assembly of claim 5, wherein the clamping screw is disposed to act against a cutting blade held within the magazine, thereby operatively positioned to fix both the magazine and the cutting blade within the second channel.

7. (New) The assembly of claim 4, wherein at least one of the first locating member and the second locating member are adjustably positionable, thereby enabling the position of the magazine within the second channel when the first locating member is in contact with the second locating member, to be selectively adjusted.

8. (New) The assembly of claim 4, wherein the slide comprises a plurality of second locating members.

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9. (New) The assembly of claim 8, further comprising one or more second blade-holding magazines dimensioned and configured for slidable insertion into said second channel in place of the first magazine, wherein the first locating member of the one or more second blade-holding magazines are positioned to align with at least one the plurality of second locating members.

10. (New) The head assembly of claim 1, wherein the blade-holding magazine comprises a flange and a means for holding a blade in contact with the flange.

11. (New) The assembly of claim 10, wherein the flange is disposed such that the means for holding a blade in contact with the flange holds a portion of a cutting edge of the blade in contact with the flange.

12. (New) The assembly of claim 11, wherein the means for holding a blade in contact with the flange includes a screw threadably engaged with the magazine, the screw positioned to act against an end of the blade opposite the cutting edge.

13. (New) A head assembly for a cutting machine, comprising:

a head having mounting means for movement of said head assembly on an axis, said head defining a first channel oriented at an oblique angle to said axis;

a slide mounted for slidable movement in said first channel between a withdrawn blade position and a plunged blade position, said slide having a second channel therein extending substantially parallel to said first channel, and said slide and head having cooperating mechanical means thereon for adjustably limiting the movement of said slide to said plunged blade position; and

a blade-holding magazine dimensioned and configured for slidable insertion into said second channel, wherein the magazine includes means for securing a blade to the magazine.

14. (New) The head assembly of claim 13, wherein the blade-holding magazine comprises a flange and a means for holding a blade in contact with the flange.

15. (New) The assembly of claim 14, wherein the flange is disposed such that the means for holding the blade in contact with the flange holds a portion of a cutting edge of the blade in contact with the shoulder.

16. (New) The assembly of claim 15, wherein the means for holding a blade against the shoulder includes a screw threadably engaged with the magazine, the screw positioned to act against an end of the blade opposite the cutting edge.